Timber contract.

347. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the names of systems of timber contract in vogue under the Forest Department in the State at present;

(*b*) what are the systems of timber contract under which the timber in Kottoor Reserve is being given and

(*c*) whether the whole quantity of timber given on contract from the above reserve is being transported annually from the above reserve?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (1) Collection and supply of timbers at Government Depots by Departmental Contractors and (2) Collection and removal of timbers by purchasers on payment of agreed *mel-labham* rates.

(*b*) Both. But, at present, no timbers are being worked down under *mel-labham* system.

(*c*) Yes.

Holidays for Educational Institutions.

348. *MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have verified the list of holidays submitted by the Director of Public Instruction, as published in the Gazette, reducing the number of holidays in the Education Department?

(*b*) If so, will they be pleased to state the names of a dozen departmental schools which have enjoyed twenty local holidays?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the Hindus in the Education Department have to observe certain religious rites on New Moon days as other Hindus do?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The twenty local holidays sanctioned can obviously be only the total number for the whole State and not for any particular departmental school.

(*c*) Yes.

Anchal office at Thalayolaparambu.

349. *MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the Anchal office at Thalayolaparambu, Vaikam, is housed in a rented thatched building;

(*b*) whether they are aware of the fact that the people of the place supplied a site for an Anchal office free of cost as requested by the Anchal Superintendent;

(*c*) how long it is since the Government took possession of this site; and

(*d*) why the building was not put up?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Eight years.

(*d*) For want of funds.

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